FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

South Asia

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

As clashes continued across the contact lines in Beirut, President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired another meeting of the Higher Political Security Committee and telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss the security and political situation, Beirut radio reported. Al-Jumayyil will dispatch two envoys to Damascus on 5 April to prepare for a summit meeting with Al-Asad aimed at breaking the current deadlock over the disengagement of forces in Beirut and its suburbs, according to "informed sources" cited by the radio.

In the south General Antoine Lahad was sworn in as the new commander of the "army of South Lebanon" and announced his intention to expand the force to 6,000 men, Jerusalem radio reported. Although the radio said that Israel reopened the Lebanese-Israeli border crossing point at Rosh Haniqra, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported that the Israelis continued to cut roads and telephone links to the south from other parts of the country. Meanwhile, Beirut radio announced that Lebanese national resistance forces in southern Lebanon ambushed another IDF vehicle, killing and wounding several Israeli soldiers. The radio also noted that Lebanon has officially asked the United Nations to extend UNIFIL's mandate for a further 6 months.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, welcomed "with joy" Deputy Prime Minister David Levi's decision not to contest the leadership of the Likud list for the forthcoming elections. Levi said in remarks broadcast by the radio that he had made the decision in order to "do everything possible to unite the entire movement" and close ranks. Although both Levi and Shamir urged Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon to reconsider his candidacy, the latter subsequently confirmed his intention to run against Shamir next week, the radio reported.

PLO Affairs

The PFLP and the DFLP have rejected a Fatah working paper aimed at restoring Palestinian unity, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing the DFLP's *AL-HADAF*. The paper termed the draft as "deviationist," accusing Fatah of proposing a "right-wing" course. The 22-point Fatah working paper, which was also described at length by the London paper *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, urged respect for the PNC resolutions, affirmation of the Fes summit resolutions, rejection of the Reagan plan, support for the Palestinian-Jordanian statement, restoration of relations with Syria, consolidation of ties with the Soviet Union, creation of a department charged with undermining Israel politically and socially, and collective leadership in decisionmaking.

Egypt

The Egyptian Armed Forces carried out major maneuvers in the Western desert, MENA reported.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi Air Force destroyed bases deep inside Iranian territory during the recent fighting and is capable of striking Tehran and Qom, the Air Force and Air Defense commander claimed, according to INA.

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Soviet Testing of Chemical Weapons Alleged

PM041418 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 4 Apr 84 p 4

[G.S. Cooper report: "Afghanistan Test Area for Soviet Poison Gas]

[Text] Persistent, efficient and effective use of chemical weapons by Soviet forces is shown by reports from Afghanistan, according to an article in *JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY.*

The Russians have been using Afghanistan as a testing-ground for previously unknown gases, the article claims.

A soldier of the Soviet Chemical Troops (KHV), captured by the Afghan resistance, Yuriy Povarnitsyn, said his mission was "to examine villages after a chemical attack to determine whether they were safe to enter or required decontamination."

KHV troops had to "visit contaminated areas to collect soil, vegetation and water samples after Soviet attacks." He also examined corpses in contaminated villages.

Details of the kinds of chemicals used have been given to the resistance by a Soviet defector, Mr Anatoliy Zakharov. He said that 57mm rockets filled with one type claimed to be "100 percent lethal" were fired from an Mi-24 Hind helicopter.

The air crew were told to wear gas masks as a precaution. The effect of the gas was said to be devastating, it apparently caused instant death.

Chemical weapons appear to be used whenever it is deemed necessary by the combat commander according to the military situation.

Mujahidin Down Soviet Helicopter Gunship

BK050354 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin in the Alishang valley of Afghanistan shot down a Soviet helicopter gunship which was bombarding mujahidin targets.

According to diplomatic sources, the Afghan mujahidin captured 25 Soviet soldiers after attacking the Pashmul post near Kandahar last month. The diplomatic sources say the attack was launched following the Karmal regime's artillery shelling and house-to-house search in some areas of Kandahar. According to another report, in a clash with the Karmal forces at (Abda Khel), Nangarhar Province, the mujahidin destroyed three Soviet tanks with rocket launchers and killed four soldiers of the Karmal regime.

Security Forces Rout 'Counterrevolutionaries'

LD261726 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] As a result of an operation recently by the country's brave security forces in (Char Borj), (Char Kabutar Khan), and Ziarat Joh villages of (Nezam-e Shahid) District and in (Diwancha), (Hawz-e Karbas), (Shal ba Khan), and (Payanaz) villages of Enjil District, Herat Province, a number of armed counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and a number of them were wounded.

Three committees [as heard], eight positions, one mortar, one DshK, and three weapons and equipment caches of the counterrevolutionaries were destroyed.

According to another report, 80 armed men and a number of unarmed men, along with their ringleader by the name of (Sardar) belonging to the Hezb-e Eslami band, in Baghlan Province joined the revolutionary state.

Konduz, Nangarhar Operations

LD281627 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 28 Mar 84

[Text] Quoting a spokesman for the security force in Konduz Province, a BAKHTAR information agency correspondent reports that recently as a result of a successful operation, which was carried out by the vigilant security forces of the country in the villages of that provinces, six counterrevolutionaries, these enemies of the people and revolution, were crushed and a number of assorted weapons and seven antitank and antipersonnel mines were seized from them.

According to another report from Nangarhar Province, as a result of an operation recently by the security forces, 1 DShK; 1 rocket launcher along with 12 pieces of its ammunition; 12 assorted weapons; 50 antitank mines; 3 antitank [as heard]; and more than 400 rounds of assorted ammunition were seized by the security forces.

Arrests in Four Provinces

LD030803 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 2, BAKHTAR — The operations of armed and security forces of the DRA against the counterrevolutionaries are successfully going on in various provinces of the country.

In operations conducted in Herat, Badakhshan, Paktia and Balkh provinces over one hundred counterrevolutionaries were crushed and a large number of them arrested.

A large amount of assorted weapons, including three rocket launchers, recoilless field guns, anti-tank and anti-personnel

mines, grenades, explosive materials, propaganda leaflets and over one hundred thousand bullets were seized from them.

Voice of Islamic Revolution on Fighting

GF271300 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] In Herat Province, clashes between the Muslim mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal joint forces are continuing. The Soviet occupationist forces and the soldiers of the puppet Karmal regime recently made a sortie from the (Malan) region of (Guzran) District in Herat Province to try to draft personel for the Army. They clashed with the mujahidin resistance, losing 35 soldiers. The dead included the commander of the 28th (?Battalion) of the 17th Division of Karmal forces and also another commander from the same division. In this clash 10 personnel of the Khad intelligence organization were also killed and several others were captured by the mujahidin. The captured also include the deputy commandant of the 28th (?Battalion). The mujahidin also captured five communication sets and several varieties of weapons.

Clashes in Nangarhar

GF301959 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1717 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] According to reliable reports, our mujahidin brothers in several clashes in villages in Nangarhar Province succeeded in killing 23 soldiers of the occupying force and mercenaries of the Karmal regime. In these operations, three soldiers of the unpatriotic Khalq Party were captured by our mujahidin brothers.

As a result of the heroic resistance put up by our mujahidin brothers against the attacks by the occupying force and mercenaries of the Karmal regime, which took place in the districts of Anar Darreh, seven of their tanks were destroyed and all their men were killed. In these operations, which occurred with the grace of God, 50 enemy infantrymen were killed. The heretic enemy following its disgraceful defeats bombarded the surrounding areas with artillery, aircraft, and helicopters, resulting in the martyrdom of 25 and the wounding of 24 of our civilian brothers and sisters.

A convoy of the Soviet occupying force was ambushed in theSalang tunnel and heavy losses were inflicted. So far there has been no report on the casualty figures.

Our heroic mujahidin in one of the fronts of the Herat Province attacked a column of Babrak Karmal soldiers, killing one and wounding three others.

Attacks on Embassy, Prison

GF041821 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Summary from poor reception] Our Muslim mujahidin guerrillas are continuing their relentless war against the Soviet occupationist forces and the puppet Karmal regime. Our mujahidin recently hit Karmal's palace in Kabul with rockets, even while the palace was guarded by Soviet tanks and Karmal soldiers. So far, no report regarding loss of life or damage to property has been received on this attack.

Our mujahidin attacked the Soviet Embassy in Kabul with rockets. The mujahidin destroyed one enemy tank and killed several soldiers. This is the second time the mujahidin have attacked the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

In another attack in Qal'eh-ye Now in Badghis Province, Muslim mujahidin attacked the local prison and released 40 mujahidin imprisoned there by the Karmal regime. In this attack, 10 Karmal soldiers lost their lives. The mujahidin also captured several kinds of weapons.

Government, 7-Party Alliance Dialogue Canceled

BK041325 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] The political dialogue between the government and the 7-party alliance, which was scheduled to be held last night, could not take place due to communication breakdown. It will, however, be held very soon at a mutually agreed date and time. Two emmisaries of the alliance went to Banga Bhavan and held an hour-long meeting with the home minister, Major General Abdul Manan Siddique, and the president's special assistant, Barrister A.R. Yusuf.

Afterwards Barrister Yusuf read out to the waiting newsmen a joint statement. It said that the 7-party alliance earlier on Tuesday had submitted to the home minister a list of political prisoners for their release. The home minister in consultation with the persident assured the alliance that necessary steps will be taken in this regard in appropriate cases.

15-Party Alliance To Take Part in Dialogue

BK041329 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] The 15-party alliance held a public meeting in Dhaka on Tuesday afternoon. Addressing the meeting the leader of the alliance and Awami League president, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, said the alliance will take part in the discussions with the government for a peaceful solution of the political problems. She added that a congenial atmosphere has to be created for holding such a dialogue.

Briefs

Agricultural Research Aid — The International Development Association is to give Bangladesh $24.5 million as assistance for agricultural research. [Excerpt] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 2 Apr 84 BK]

Materials Dealing With Punjab Situation

Sethi on Akali Demands

BK041609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, told the Lok Sabha today that the government has made no commitment to the Akali leadership about amendment of Article 25 of the Constitution. Government has offered to consult Akali leaders, Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee, and legal experts in the matter. If an agreement takes place, the government will come before the parliament for necessary legislation. Mr Sethi was replying to a 6-hour special discussion on his statement in the House on Monday regarding Akali demands concerning Article 25 and incidental matters. He said the government had received no communication from the Akali Dal leadership regarding this article before 18th of last month, nor was the issue raised earlier at tripartite talks and other discussions. He said the Akali Dal communication does not specify the precise nature of the problem. At this stage, several opposition members repeatedly demanded that the contents of the letter should be disclosed in the House. But the minister did not do so. He only said the latter refers to the personal law.

Mr Sethi reiterated government's commitment to find a negotiated settlement of the Punjab tangle. The home minister said that yesterday's notification on Punjab refers to certain areas in the state as disturbed and not as dangerously disturbed. Mr Sethi also referred to various measures taken by the government to strengthen the law and order machinery to normalize the situation.

During the discussion, members from both sides of the House demanded stern action against the extremists and criminals indulging in violence. They said the problem should be tackled above party lines. Professor Madhu Dandvate, Janata, who raised the discussion, appealed to the Akali Dal to dissociate itself from the influence of Mr Bhindranwale and other extremists. He urged the government to deal firmly with extremists while adoping a flexible approach on Akali demands.

Many members were critical of the role of the state police and called for its revamping. They said stringent action should be taken against elements trying to create differences between the two communities in the state. Several members felt that existing provisions of Article 25 are enough to ensure a separate entity of the Sikhs. They cautioned the government to be careful in dealing with the Akali Dal over this demand. A suggestion was made to mobilize public opinion against politics of violence.

Referring to the recent killings in the state, several members regretted that the Akali leadership has not condemned them so far.

Refuting the opposition allegation that the government has failed to find a negotiated settlement, Mr Sethi asserted that the prime minister had taken the earliest opportunity to open a dialogue with the Akali Dal.

Curfew Extensions

BK041615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The situation in Amritsar is under control though tense. According to an official spokesman no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state since last evening.

The curfew in all the five towns, where it was clamped earlier, has been further extended as a precautionary measure. In Amritsar, the curfew has been extended till Friday morning. In Jullundur, Ludhiana, Khanna, and Patiala it has been extended till tomorrow morning. In Patiala, the curfew was relaxed from 1600 to 1900 today.

Some Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] volunteers courted arrest by violating prohibitory order, they were later released. The authorities have taken strict precautions to maintain law and order. Shops and business establishments were closed in most parts of Haryana, Jammu, and Himachal Pradesh. Essential services, buses and trains were exempted. There has been no report of any untoward incident. The BJP general secretary, Mr L.K. Advani, has said that the people of Punjab are going to judge the Akalis by their attitude toward the extremists. Mr Advani, who visited Amritsar yesterday, was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi. He said confidence must be created among the people that the government will deal firmly with terrorism.

Incidents of Violence

BK050314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were injured when some unidentified miscreants threw a bomb at a group of people in a market place in Moga in Faridkot district late last night. Three of the seriously injured were shifted to Ludhiana hospital and the other two admitted to a local hospital.

In another incident, some unfidentified culprits in a truck fired at a scooterist near (Bhairuta) village in Bhatinda district last night. The truck-borne miscreants loaded the injured man and the scooter into the truck and later threw him out near a village in Moga. Barring these, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state.

The situation in Amritsar continues to be under control. Meanwhile, day curfew has been lifted in Jullundur, Ludhiana and Khanna and restricted to night hours only. In Amritsar, the curfew has been extended till tomorrow morning.

Union Cabinet Meeting

BK050357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The union Cabinet met in New Delhi yesterday to review the situation in Punjab. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, presided over the meeting. The effectiveness of the law and order

mechanism and further measures to be taken tc ensure safety of innocent people are understood to have figured in the discussion.

Security Act Amendment

BK051300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance to amend the National Security Act 1980, and its application to the State of Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh. The ordinance, which comes into force at once, extends the detention period up to 6 months as against 3 months at present, without obtaining the opinion of the advisory board. A copy of the ordinance was laid on the table of the Lok Sabha today by the home minister.

The opposition members strongly objected to this on the grounds that the ordinance should not have been brought forward when the house is in session and the Rajya Sabha has already been summoned. Mr P.C. Sethi, however, assured the members that the ordinance would not be misused.

Under the ordinance, a person can be detained with a view to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the defense or security of the country, security of the state, maintenance of public order, or maintenance of essential supplies and services. The maximum period of detention after referring the case to the advisory board is now 2 years. It was 1 year earlier. Grant of detention would have to be communicated within 15 days. The detainee was required to be informed about the reasons for detention within 5 days previously. In extraordinary cases, it could be done within 12 days.

Gandhi Meets With Iranian Under Secretary

LD041932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] At noon today the under secretary at the Foreign Ministry met with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Our colleague has sent us a report on this visit from New Delhi:

At noon today, Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary at the Foreign Ministry who is visiting India at the head of a delegation, met in New Delhi with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. He presented her with a message from President Khamene'i. The political under secretary also requested of the Indian prime minister, in view of the fact that the use of chemical weapons has been condemned by the Security Council and the United Nations, that she too in her capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement act according to her humane and historical duties and condemn this crime.

The need for the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India was also emphasized in the meeting.

This morning the political under secretary at the Foreign Ministry met with the Indian minister of higher education and talked about the expansion of educational relations between the two countries. In this meeting, the questions of the exchange of students and of making use of each country's educational facilities to further strengthen bilateral relations were discussed.

Government Initiative Sought on Tamil Problem

BK041535 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, April 4 (AFP) — The secretary-general of Sri Lanka's Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) today urged the Indian Government to take "some initiative" to avert what he called an impending disaster facing the Tamil minority in the neighboring island republic.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency quoted A. Amirthalingam as saying in Madras, capital of the southern Indian State of Tamil Nadu, that the initiative was "very necessary" since Sri Lanka's Tamils feared a "major crackdown" on their youths in the north and north-eastern provinces.

He reportedly added that the predominantly Tamil population of the northern Sri Lankan province of Jaffna lived in great fear and some people even planning to leave the country.

(Observers in Colombo said Sunday that the recent killing of eight government officials by Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka had triggered fears of a new outburst of anti-Tamil attacks this week to coincide with the opening of an international tourism conference in Colombo.

(They added that the latest wave of attacks appeared to be aimed at triggering a backlash by the Sinhalese majority against Tamils living in the south, similar to the one which occurred last July and in which nearly 400 people, most of them Tamils, were killed and 100,000 made homeless.

Tamil militants are campaigning for an independent Tamil state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The TULF leader, quoted by PTI, also warned that an attempt to cordon off Jaffna might result in large-scale violence on innocent people.

He is scheduled to visit Delhi on Friday for talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the prime minister's special envoy, G. Parthasarathy, who has been trying to mediate between the Sri Lankan Government and Tamil minority leaders.

Asked whether he would ask New Delhi to send Mr. Parthasarathy on another mission to Colombo in view of recent developments in Sri Lanka, Mr. Amirthalingam reportedly replied that such a visit would depend on the attitude of the Sri Lanka Government.

Afghan Chemical Weapon Victim Flown to FRG

GF041509 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Mar 84 p 16

[Bureau report]

[Text] Peshawar, March 18 — An air ambulance flew into Peshawar from West Germany today to take an ailing Afghan refugee to Bonn for treatment. The refugee, reportedly a victim of chemical warfare, was currently in the Afghan surgical hospital here and he had numerous burns on his body giving the appearance of roasted human body.

The aircraft was scheduled to leave for its return journey early Monday morning.

Turkish Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

BK041055 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] An 8-member Turkish parliamentary delegation arrived in Islamabad this afternoon. It is led by the president of Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Mr Necmettin Karaduman. He was received at the airport by the chairman of Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council], Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, and a large number of federal councillors.

Talking to newsmen, the leader of the delegation described the relations between Pakistan and Turkey as very friendly. He said this was the first visit of the Turkish Parliament abroad after it came into being 5 months ago. The visit would enable them to learn from the experiences of Majlis-i-Shoora. They would exchange views not only on administrative but all other matters concerning parliamentary affairs.

The leader of the delegation said Pakistan and Turkey have similar views on the Afghanistan problem and hoped this problem would soon be solved.

About Regional Cooperation for Development, Mr Karaduman expressed the hope that it would be revived in a short time and necessary steps would be taken as it is in the interest of the three countries — Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan.

He said President Kenan Evren has conveyed his best wishes and regard for President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the people of Pakistan.

Yaqub Khan Cited on Ties With U.S., USSR, India

GF301858 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 19 Mar 84 p 3

[Editorial: "World Problems and Pakistan's Stance"]

[Text] Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan made a detailed statement on the regional disputes and on Pakistan's relations with India, the Soviet Union, and the United States. He has correctly expressed his concern over the Gulf war by saying that it has escalated to a very large scale. He said that if the United States also gets involved in it, then its blaze could reach us. He also added that the United States will get involved in it only if the Strait of Hormuz is blocked. However, he hoped that matters won't go so far. But if it does happen and a big clash occurs in the region, then it will be most unfortunate and Pakistan will be affected by it to some extent.

In view of these circumstances, it would be best for all the countries concerned that the war does not expand further and that no other country intervenes. One can understand the interest which the United States has in keeping the strait open and that is to keep the oil flow going as before. Iran has announced that if Iranian shipping goes on unhindered, then it will keep the strait open for all the countries of the world. On the basis of this announcement, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has expressed the hope that things will not go to the extent of blocking the strait and if this hope is realized, then the United States will not get itself involved in the Gulf war. However, it would be in the best interests of the region if the United States remains away from the Gulf and its war. Otherwise, involvement of the United States in the Gulf war may prove to be highly disastrous and Pakistan will not remain immune to its effects.

With regard to Pakistan's relations with India, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that we want our relations with India free from any strain, although history of the relations between the two countries has shown that this path would be very difficult to traverse. However, any progress made in this connection should be measured with the same yardstick. He said: We acknowledge that India, on account of its large area, large population, and vast resources, commands great respect in this area but we cannot accept its hegemony. As far as we are concerned, the agreements signed between big and small countries should be equally beneficial to both. He expressed the hope that the contacts which have been set up between the foreign secretaries of the two countries will make it possible to hold talks on nonaggression and friendship treaties.

The difficulty in our relations with India is that in settling problems India wants that we should accept its hegemony. While acknowledging India's superior status in the region, Pakistan wants India to respect its independence too. India has offered a friendship pact to Pakistan on its own terms, but these terms go contrary to the national independence of Pakistan. Pakistan has also offered India a nonaggression pact which respects the independence of both the countries on an equal basis. However, it is very fortunate that the foreign secretaries of both the countries are going to hold a meeting in Islamabad in May. If both are able to bring their draft agreements closer together and put them in one form, then it would clear the atmosphere.

Expressing his views on Pakistani-U.S. relations, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that these relations are based on mutual interests. He elaborated by saying that the United States has started giving importance to Pakistan's territorial integrity and independence in this sensitive region. If the United States does anything to enhance Pakistan's independence and territorial integrity to ensure peace in this region, then this would be in our interest. We also want to play a positive role for peace in our region and thus there is a need to coordinate about the interests

of the two countries. Some circles fear that in the event of any aggression against Pakistan, the United States will not give Pakistan any real support. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that this was a needless fear. He said that although there are various interpretations on the 1959 treaty between Pakistan and the United States, we do hope that friends would come to our aid whenever the necessity arises. But we would not depend on others for our security, because the defense of our homeland is our own responsibility. If we receive aid from any of our friends in an emergency, that would be a cause for joy.

After this explanation, there should not remain any doubt in respect to the type of relations between Pakistan and the United States. The sameness of the interests of the two countries has kept the two countries close to each other and if the United States is concerned about the security and independence of Pakistan because of prevailing situation in the region, then this is welcomed. In any case, the fact of the matter is that Pakistan does not depend on the United States for its security, it only expects support.

While expressing his views on Pakistani-Soviet relations, he said that there is no dispute between us. We only differ on the subject of Afghanistan and we are trying to resolve this through talks. He added that we have very good relations with the Soviet Union, especially in the economic field, and in this field, mutual cooperation is growing. In any case, we would very much like to solve the Afghanistan-Pakistan question within the framework of the United Nations and we are doing our best in this respect. When we say that withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is the basic condition for solving the Afghan problem, we are also saying that we support international guarantees to the Soviet Union that after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, there will be no outside interference in Afghanistan.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that some circles were expressing the incorrect view that Pakistan did not recognize the Babrak Karmal regime because of its political beliefs. He reminded that Pakistan had recognized the regimes of Nur Mohammad Taraki and Hafizollah Amin, therefore it was not a question of differences in political ideologies. Pakistan believes that choosing the system of government for Afghanistan is the sole right of the Afghan people and no foreign power should trample upon this right. The control which Babrak Karmal has gained over Kabul has been only through the intervention of Soviet forces. We do not accept the right of the Soviet Union or any other superpower to intervene militarily in any small country and set up a regime to its own liking. In the past, no nonaligned regime in Afghanistan had ever created any difficulty for the Soviet Union. The geographical situation of Afghanistan also demands that there be friendly and cooperative relations with the Soviet Union. Therefore, if Afghanistan's independence and nonaligned status are restored, it will not endanger Soviet interests.

We hope that Soviet Union will eventually accept the logic and appropriateness of Pakistan's views on this subject.

UN Envoy Scores U.S. Mining of Nicaraguan Port

BK041045 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Pakistan has criticized the reported mining of Nicaraguan seaports by the United States. The Pakistan ambassador at the United Nations, Mr S. Shah Nawaz, said that such military activities can spark off a wider conflaration. He was addressing the Security Council which is debating Nicaragua's complaint against the United States.

Study of Arabic To Be Made Compulsory

GF041047 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 4 Apr 84 p 5

[By correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad — The study of Arabic will be made compulsory upto the intermediate college level in Pakistan, Planning Minister Dr Mahbuul Haq told Majlis-i-Shoora (Federal Advisory Council) on Sunday.

At present Arabic is being taught upto the eighth standard as a compulsory subject. Now it will be extended to the secondary and intermediate levels. Islamic and Pakistan studies have also been made compulsory for arts and science courses upto the final degree level.

Mr Haq disclosed that a women's university will start functioning in the coming academic year — 1984-85. All women's colleges in the country will be affiliated to this university.

Defence Minister Ali Ahmad Talpur informed the council that Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) headquarters would be shifted shortly from Karachi to Islamabad. He said this action was being taken in order to coordinate the various operations of the airline.

Council proceedings were blocked on Monday by a controversy over a proposed piece of legislation on offences against body (Qisas and Diyat). The draft law was to have been taken up four days ago but owing to division between religious leaders and lawyers on a report by the select committee, Council Chairman Khwaja Safdar postponed debate till today when dissenting notes of the ulema will also be taken up.

Lawyers and women members vehemently oppose the ulema's contention that women cannot be treated at par with men in the matter of Qisas and Diyat.

SRI LANKA

Committee To Probe Chief Justice's Remarks on Politics

BK041119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Parliament yesterday decided to appoint a select committee to inquire into and report to Parliament on certain matters relating to a speech alleged to have been made by Chief Justice N.D.G. Samarakoon recently in Colombo. A motion to this effect was carried in the House — 120 voting in favor and 6 against.

The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, opening the debate on behalf of the Parliament [as heard], said that if the independence of the judiciary was to be protected, the judges should not behave like politicians. He said the independence of the judiciary was not just a slogan. It involves the rights and obligations of the judiciary. Judges had certain standards, which they should uphold. They should not interfere with Parliament or the actions of politicians. Once they did that they would lose the confidence of the public. He asked: If a judge started criticizing the government and indulged in political speeches, what was there to prevent the politican from citicizing the judge?

Premadasa Urges Investigation Into Tamil Camp Reports

BK301100 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 30 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa has called on New Delhi to initiate a joint investigation into reports that Tamil separatists were undergoing military training in southern India, a local newspaper reported today.

Mr. Premadasa told visiting Indian envoy, S.J.S. Chatwal, that such an investigation was necessary in the light of evidence available to the government that Sri Lankan Tamils were being trained by Indian ex-servicemen in Tamil Nadu State, *THE SUN* newspaper said.

New Delhi has consistently denied the existence of training camps for Tamil militants on Indian soil.

In his meeting with Mr. Premadasa, the Indian envoy, who had earlier described the report in *INDIA TODAY* magazine as "rubbish," again denied that Tamils were being trained in his country. But he added that there were a large number of Sri Lankan Tamils who had sought refuge in Tamil Nadu State following an outbreak of anti-Tamil violence last July on the island which left nearly 400 dead.

The prime minister also reportedly complained to Mr. Chatwal about an Indian Foreign Ministry statement which followed a clash Wednesday in northern Sri Lanka between air force personnel and Tamil militants. He said the statement only regretted the deaths of seven persons shot by the government men, making no mention of six unarmed security personnel killed in other incidents by Tamil separatists, he said.

Yesterday the Foreign Ministry here said such one-sided statements by New Delhi could adversely affect Sri Lanka's relations with India.

Velayati Calls for Soviet Withdrawal From Afghanistan

LD041634 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA — The key to solving all the issues facing Afghanistan is the unconditional and prompt withdrawal of the forces of the Soviet Union from that country, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told the U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, today.

But without the pressures from the Afghan mujahidin, he said, the U.N. must bear in mind that the Soviet forces would "never" leave Afghanistan.

He said the conditions of the Islamic Republic for ending the crisis in Afghanistan, as in the past, is "first the prompt and unconditional withdrawal of the invading Soviet forces from Afghanistan, second the emplacement of the forces of no other arrogant power, third the respectful and free return of Afghan emigrants to their country and fourth giving the people of Afghanistan the right for self-determination."

"As neighbour of Afghanistan, and with many things in common, we deeply sympathise with the innocent people of Afghanistan and we are against any kind of compromise between big or small foreign powers on their fate," the foreign minister said.

Dr. Velayati stressed that the Afghan mujahidin were neither the agents of foreigners nor instigated and controlled by them and they were fighting to free their country from foreign occupation.

"It is impossible for a few agents of foreigners to be able to put up such resistance and liberate and control large parts of their country. People with free conscience do not accept such views."

He also said "The Soviet Union will not be able to suppress the struggles of the Muslim people of that country by continuing its military occupation."

The foreign minister said armed struggle in Afghanistan was at least 50 percent of the answer to the crisis, and "it is a fact that if the pressure of Muslim Afghan mujahidin is removed, foreign forces would never leave the territory of Afghanistan."

Mr. Cordovez arrived in Tehran Tuesday.

Further Report

LD041814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] UN special envoy Diego Cordovez, who is visiting the region again to continue UN efforts to find a solution to the Afghanistan issue, this morning met with Foreign Minister Velayati. During the meeting, Mr Cordovez informed the minister of foreign affairs about the latest developments in UN efforts to resolve the Afghanistan issue.

While emphasizing the former positions adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan and the Geneva discussions, the minister of foreign affairs said: We believe that the main pivot of the difficulties of Afghanistan is the presence of Soviet forces in that country. We believe that by continuing its military occupation of Afghanistan the Soviet Union will not be able to suppress the struggles of the Muslim people of that country. We regard the struggles of the Muslim people of Afghanistan as their basic right. They are a people whose country has been occupied and they are fighting for its liberation. The allegations that the Afghan mujahedin are dependent upon foreigners and that they are incited and controlled by foreign elements is mere propaganda by superpowers. It is not possible for a few people who are dependent upon foreigners to show such resistance or to liberate and administer large parts of their country.

Our country's minister of foreign affairs added: As a neighbor of Afghanistan and as a country which has much in common with that country we feel great sympathy for the wronged Afghan people. We are against collusion by small and big foreign powers at the expense of the Afghan people because it is possible that some countries of the region may sacrifice the interests of the Afghan people for their own interests or some big powers may conclude a deal over what is happening in Afghanistan. That is why we believe that regard for the interests of the Afghan people should be the basis of any solution, and the interests of the Afghan people rest in safeguarding their Islamic identity and their national independence. The only thing that can guarantee those interests would be the speedy and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying Soviet forces from Afghanistan, without being replaced by another arrogant power, and the granting of permission to Afghan refugees to freely return to their country, and to allow the Afghan people to determine their fate by themselves.

Addressing the UN special envoy, the minister of foreign affairs said: We are happy to see that you have come to the conclusion that armed struggle in Afghanistan constitutes at least 50 percent of the solution of the problem, and that political endeavor is not the only solution. You can be certain that without the pressure exerted by the Afghan mujahidin foreign forces will not leave Afghan territory. Lebanon is a good example. Like the Soviet Union, the United States and Israel have never left anywhere they have occupied. However, they were forced to leave Lebanese territory by the bullets of the Muslim fighters of Lebanon. The Zionist regime is also forced to reconsider its continued presence in southern Lebanon.

In conclusion, Mr Velayati again emphasized the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran on a solution to the question of Afghanistan, which requires the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country.

Velayati Asks Nonaligned To Condemn Chemical Use

LD041827 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports: In connection with the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons and because of international reaction and those of the Nonaligned Movement in this respect, Foreign Minister Velayati today said: Iraq's use of chemical weapons, particularly after publication of the UN report, is such a blatant

violation of international law that even the most conservative international authorities have been unable to keep silent and have been forced, either directly or indirectly, to condemn Iraq's action.

The Security Council's recent stance is a clear indication of this. That council, although deeply influenced by the superpowers, at long last and under intense international pressure, was forced to adopt a stance, albeit a stance that by no means constituted a response to the council's fundamental task with regard to this momentous issue. In such circumstances the expectation of the entire world, particularly the members of the Nonaligned Movement, has been that the movement should move ahead of the United Nations. But, regrettably, a worthy reaction has not been observed so far, and this at a time when the majority of the members of the movement, spearately and unilaterally, are condemning Iraq's action.

Therefore, the expectation of the world community quite naturally is directed to the chairman of the movement to coordinate and announce such views.

Mr Velayati added: To obfuscate the issue, certain authorities are attempting in some way or another to link the use of chemical weapons with the question of war. The direct and indirect meaning of such an action is that under certain circumstances the use of chemical weapons is permissible. But the 1925 protocol and the 1972 convention are absolutely clear in this respect and leave no room for ambiguity. They make it abundantly clear that the use of such weapons is absolutely forbidden under all circumstances.

Therefore, the world community and particularly the members of the Nonaligned Movement expect the movement to sharply condemn the use of chemical weapons independently from the issue of war after clearly naming the party that has used these weapons.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,686

LD041722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,686 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours on every front of the imposed war, the combatants defending our Islamic homeland continued exchanges of artillery, mortar, and other heavy weapons fire with the Saddamist mercenaries. Islam's combatants, while defending the regions under their control and their defensive positions, opened fire, dispatched patrol groups, set up observation posts, surveyed and controlled enemy movements and activities in every region, and inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraq forces. According to reports that have reached us, the enemy's observed losses and casualties are: In the Hajj 'Umran region, two mortars were destroyed and five people killed; in the Panjwin region, a command jeep with its occupant and four heavy weapons emplacements were destroyed and a number were killed or wounded; on the western fronts, some of the forward positions of the Iraqi forces and a sensitive observation post were destroyed.

Enemy patrol activities were also observed at 1300 yesterday in the Mehran region, and a squad of enemy troops came under fire from our combatants. After suffering casualties, they fled from the scene.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, our naval heroes and Gendarmerie combatants halted the fire of Iraqi forces and controlled the area's axes, destroyed some 20 different weapons emplacements of the Saddamist mercenaries, and killed or wounded more than 50 of their servicemen.

The Iraqi forces fire yesterday damaged the hospital and 17 houses and shops in Abadan. One person was martyred and another three were wounded.

Khamene'i: We Will End This War With Victory

LD041934 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 4, IRNA — "With the help of God, we will carry out what our enemies tried to do and did not succeed. We will end this war with victory," President Khamene'i said in a speech today.

Addressing a huge gathering of people at the Hadhrat Abdulazim (AS) shrine near Tehran, the president said there were still a number of countries who had not condemned Iraq for its ues of chemical weapons against Iran "because they did not want to accept the fact that a nation (Iran) has become a victim and is defending its own rights."

"This was the last weapon of the Iraqis...but the ineffectiveness of them became evident for everyone," he said.

"In Iraq the policies of the East and West (powers) have come together in an unprecedented way," the president added, "but today the smartest people who are pulling the strings of these policies, feel that they have wasted their wealth and spread their seeds in a salt marsh."

The president was speaking on the birthday anniversary of the tenth imam of the Shi'ite Muslims and the fortieth day of the martyrdom of a group of combatants in the Khaybar operation.

On the future of the Islamic revolution, he said there was no single issue which could create doubts in the future of the Islamic revolution.

"I am very optimistic about the future of this revolution and republic," he said.

President Khamene'i further said that more than three and a half years of war consumed the capabilities of the country in addition to the difficult years after the revolution. Nevertheless, he added, what had been achieved was remarkable.

"Nowhere in the world and in no other state is the peoples' presence in the arena like this (in Iran). Our state is based on the people in the true sense of the word....

"The mistake of the left and right leaning parties (in Iran) was that they did not know this revolution progressed and came to a victory on the shoulders of the people.

"The secret is that religious and Islamic faith has kept the people in the struggle and without their help the struggle would not have lasted," the president said.

President Khamene'i spoke about the glory of the martyrs and their families as well as the passion of the people in seeking martyrdom in the cause of Islam.

SAIRI Fighters Depart for Battle Fronts

GF050912 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 0745 GMT 5 Apr 84

[Text] Another group of our Iraqi people, who have been expelled and who have been living in the country of Islam, neighboring Iran, left for the front of the struggle against Ba'thist infidelity the day before yesterday. The members of this group are from the fighters of mobilization of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]. They left for the war fronts after completing their training in one of the SAIRI camps.

Family of Seven Flees Iraqi 'Oppression'

GF041937 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1840 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Bakhtaran, 4 Apr (IRNA) — An Iraqi family of seven from As-Sulaymaniyah took refuge in the Islamic Republic this morning after crossing the western borders.

The family said that it fled from Iraq because of the increasing oppression and tyranny from the Ba'thist authorities.

Musavi Explains Majlis Election Preparations

LD041308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Excerpts] At today's Cabinet session, held in the presence of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the current affairs of the country and the political developments of the region were reviewed and discussed. At the end of this session, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi granted an interview to our correspondent and explained the issues raised at the session.

[Begin recording; correspondent] Mr Musavi, would you please explain the issues discussed at today's Cabinet session?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At the beginning of the session, our brothers reported on information they have received about different political issues, internal and external. One of the points discussed was a report on the progress of preparations for elections, which was a good report and indicated that work is in progress all over the country and everything is in order. We hope that with the good morale of our people and their enthusiastic participation we will have a good election. Of course, we do expect the oppressive mad media and their evil agents, those who might still be in this country, to make a lot of noise and create an adverse atmosphere. But we are receiving information from all over the country that preparations are going on in a good Islamic spirit.

[Correspondent] What measures have been taken by the government and Interior Ministry to coordinate and prepare for the second Majlis elections?

[Musavi] What the government is doing is to prepare the ground so that people can have the freedom to take part in the election, by providing the manpower to hold the elections, by increasing the number of polling stations, by briefing the officials involved, and by quickly investigating problems. These steps are being taken speedily and the revolutionary institutions and executive organizations have been briefed.

NVOI Calls Iranian, U.S. Afghan Stands Identical

TA021041 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Wheel of History Cannot Be Turned Back"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Again this year, U.S. officials, during provocative ceremonies, marked so-called Afghanistan Day. These ceremonies were held at the initiative of U.S. President Reagan with the aim of intensifying subversive activities and hostile propaganda against the people and democratic Government of Afghanistan.

Reagan made a speech on this occasion. He tried once more to depict the killers from U.S. bandit mercenary bands as so-called strugglers in the path of freedom and Afghanistan's salvation. With his provocative speech, the U.S. President once again proved that today terrorism is an inseparable part of the government policy of the U.S. Administration.

What is interesting to our homeland's people in this context is that both Reagan's tone and remarks about democratic Afghanistan are completely identical to the tone and remarks by officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Government's authorities are no less hostile than U.S. officials to the freedom and happiness of the liberated Afghan people. Under the groundless pretext of saving Islam in Afghanistan, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are supporting the professional killers of Afghan fugitive and counterrevolutionary bandit bands and are flagrantly interfering in the internal affairs of the emancipated and independent country of Afghanistan.

It is no secret to anyone that following the victory of the April Revolution in Afghanistan, and particularly after the victory of the second stage of the revolution in that country which thwarted all the satanic plans of imperialism and the region's reaction with respect to Afghanistan, the undeclared war by imperialism as well as interventions by regional reaction against this country have accelerated. Unfortunately, rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran are actively and impudently participating in these satanic campaigns by the imperialists. The Islamic regime is carrying out these improper, unwise, and interventionist deeds under the guise of support for Islam. The Islamic regime is claiming that

its protection of a handful of bandits, killers, and U.S. mercenaries is allegedly for the sake of saving Islam in Afghanistan. However, at every step the reality of Afghanistan exposes the lies of hypocritical rulers who are governing our country.

In fact, Iran's Islamic regime is supporting those so-called Muslims in Afghanistan who murder innocent people, loot the country's wealth, and destroy mosques, religious sites, schools, hospitals, bridges, roads, productive institutions, and so forth. These so-called defenders of Islam — supported by rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran — have also not refrained and do not refrain from assassinating patriotic ulema and clergymen. According to official figures, so far more than 200 of Afghanistan's outstanding and patriotic clergymen have been killed by these fugitive murderers. Only recently, the counterrevolutionaries exploded a bomb at Kabul's Jam'i Mosque. As a result of this explosion, a number of people who were attending the Friday prayerswere killed and wounded and severe damage was inflicted on the mosque's building.

Yes, the so-called Islamic strugglers — carrying out Reagan's order and in the name of Islam — murder Muslim people in Afghanistan while at their prayers, assassinate patriotic clergymen, and blow up mosques and religious sites with U.S. bombs. The Islamic regime ruling in our homeland is supporing such so-called Islamic mujahidin. And, like the Reagan administration, it is providing these saboteurs, killers, and bandits with money and weapons. Just one day after ceremonies marking the so-called day of solidarity with Afghan counterrevolutionaries in America and the announcement of Reagan's solidarity with these murderers supported by Iran's Islamic regime, these Godless terrorists and saboteurs exploded a bomb in Kabul's Jam'i mosque in order to obtain the satisfaction of their supporters. A statement issued by the Higher Council of Afghan Ulema and Clergymen strongly condemned the terrorist and antihuman acts of the Afghan counterrevolutionary mercenaries. In this statement, it was again affirmed that the terrorist and subversive acts of Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, as well as the plots of imperialism and reaction, will not be able to deter the Afghan people from the course of the April Revolution.

Despite all plots, provocations, and (?conspiracies) by the enemies — imperialism, reaction, and the mercenary counterrevolutionaries — the Afghan people are moving resolutely forward on the path of building a new, free, and prosperous society. The wheel of history cannot be turned back in Afghanistan. The supporters of reaction and Afghan counterrevolutionaries in our homeland should realize this fact before it is too late.

Reportage on Recent Fighting in Afghanistan

GF021701 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary from "Grance at Developments in Iran and in World" program: "Defeat of Russian Occupationists in Afghanistan"]

[Excerpt] According to news agency reports on the great struggle the Afghan revolutionary Muslims have been waging against the occupationist Soviet forces and government military units, the Muslim fighters launched a major offensive against a military center in (?Sultan-e Bakva) last week. As a result of this attack, 25 high-ranking officers in the military headquarters of the Kabul regime were captured and a large number of arms were seized as spoils of war. A number of Soviet officers were killed in the attack.

A number of tanks and armored vehicles of the occupationist Russian forces were destroyed as a result of the attacks the Afghan revolutionary Muslims organized against a number of centers in Herat Province. A total of 40 enemy troops were killed and others were captured. In addition to large quantities of ammunition, 80 automatic weapons were seized by the Muslims during the attacks.

In retaliation for their latest defeats, the Russian forces bombarded many villages. As a result of these bombardments, 30 civilians were killed and 20 others were wounded. Women and children were among the martyred Muslims.

Attack on Soviet Embassy

GF041026 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries launched a missile attack on 23 March on the presidential palace and the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The two buildings were damaged and two tanks guarding the building were destroyed.

The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries also attacked a base of the Soviet occupation forces located on the main road south of the city of Kandahar in retaliation for the kidnapping of a number of the Afghan women by the Soviet occupation forces. The occupation forces kidnapped a number of young women along the main road to the south of the city of Kandahar after forcing them to get off buses.

Clashes in Herat Area

LD041057 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] Mashhad, April 4, IRNA — The Afghan Muslim mujahideen fighting the occupying Soviet forces and Afghan troops, late in March attacked the government forces in Herat area destroying three tanks and one heavy vehicle and killed their occupants.

Furthermore in another clash with the government forces March 17, eight of them surrendered to the mujahideen.

In another development, four Soviet helicopters and six fighters bombed an area near Herat March 11, as a result of which a number of homes were destroyed. Two of the mujahideen were martyred and a number of civilians were injured.

Radio Iran Notes 'Gradual' Release of Tudeh Members

GF041707 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 4 Apr 84

[Text] The gradual release of Tudeh Party members from Evin Prison continues. National elements have reported that the Islamic Republic regime, without any fuss, has set free some of the members of the Tudeh Party who have been in prison since March 1983. It seems possible that during the next few weeks another group of Tudeh members imprisoned on charges of spying for the Soviet Union gradually will be set free.

The national elements add that on 13 March nine members of the Tudeh Party were set free from the prison on the orders of the chief prosecutor of Rasht and their trial, which was due to be held in a shari'a court, has been canceled. Prior to this, the chief Islamic Revolution prosecutors of Chalus, Nowshahr, and Reza'iyeh, on the instructions from an authority of the Islamic Republic — said to be Ayatollah Montazeri — set free a group of Tudeh prisoners. In a political report broadcast by the Baku radio station last Sunday, the recent instructions of Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri to the judicial authorities and prison chiefs were highly praised and the report asked the Islamic regime to act in similar directions, which have also been included in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic. Mullah Montazeri had asked the judicial authorities to arrange terms for the release of some of the political prisoners who have offered to cooperate with the Islamic Republic. *RAH-E TUDEH*, organ of the remnants of the Tudeh Party, recently published an open letter from the wife of a leader of the Tudeh Party, addressed to Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and asking him to take necessary steps for the release of the Tudeh Party members in prisons.

We remind you that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader, has close contacts with the men close to Montazeri through the Libyan mission in Tehran. Last year, when the Tudeh Party leaders were being crushed, he asked Montazeri to use his influence for the release of the Tudeh Party members. National elements say that Montazeri, who at that time was under great pressure from the hojjatiyeh sect and was accused of supporting the Tudeh Party, did not listen to this request then, but he promised that after the wave of opposition agains the Tudeh Party subsided, he would intervene for their gradual release. According to the reports published in the Tehran press on amnesty to some of the political prisoners on the eve of the Iranian New Year, it is clear that priority of release was for the members of the Tudeh Party. There are still a number of political prisoners who have been in prison for several years without having been put on trial and they do not know what wrong they had done.

Bani-Sadr Resigns From National Resistance Council

GF011535 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] At last, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, former president of the Khomeyni regime, resigned his membership in the National Resistance Council, which is led by Mas'ud Rajavi.